

LUCIA HODGES

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8401 Old Stage Rd, #62 • Central Point, OR 97502 • (541) 855-8765

October 15, 2007

Bureau of Land Management,  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office  
333 SW 1st. Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97208

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a citizen of Oregon, I greatly value the incredible natural beauty of our state. For many of us, part of that beauty consists of our majestic old growth forests. Flying over Oregon, however, one unfortunately sees clearly how these forests are sadly diminishing through the many acres of past clear-cutting practices.

For this reason, I am very concerned with the direction the Bush Administration is headed with the management of nearly 2.6 million acres of federal forests under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). It seems clear that the changes the BLM is contemplating will unravel the protections of the Northwest Forest Plan, and will most likely lead to water pollution, degraded habitat, and increased conflict and controversy.

The current Administration would place **½ of the public land that the BLM manages** – and most of our best old-growth BLM forests – in “Timber Management Areas” **to be clearcut every 80 years**. The Administration’s preferred alternative proposes to clearcut 110,000 acres of Oregon’s old-growth (120+ years) and **build 1,000 miles of new logging roads every decade** while creating over 100,000 miles of new Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis Areas – all at the expense of roadless areas, threatened species, water quality and non-motorized recreation. Shockingly, the proposal ignores the role that these forests play in regulating the climate.

Most Americans want federal land managers to embrace thinning second growth forests, safeguard communities from wildfire and protect what remains of our nation’s ancient forests. In contrast, the WOPR proposes to increase old-growth clearcutting for a short-term economic fix. I feel strongly that we should protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests on public land, not clearcut these natural treasures. For these reasons I urge you to protect remaining old-growth forests, and to focus active management of BLM lands in already logged-over areas.

Sincerely,



Lucia L. Hodges

Cc: Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Gordon Smith